



City of Cambridge Police Department

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Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

May 3, 2010

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: City Council Order No. 12, dated April 5, 2010

Dear Sir:

In response to the above City Council Order regarding the impact of parking around the area of the Robert W. Healy Public Safety Building, I would offer the following explanation.

As the Cambridge Police Department prepared to move from its headquarters at 5 Western Avenue to the new facility at 125 Sixth Street, representatives from the Department and the Department of Traffic, Transportation and Parking (T.T. & P.) met to determine how to incorporate the parking needs for the Police Department while minimizing the impact to the residents of the East Cambridge Neighborhood.

There were several issues to include in the plan, the primary one was the need to exclude the Department's fleet from the underground parking at the facility. The major reason for this decision was the insistence of the architects and designers that facility safety mandates that in a post 9/11 world, parking around the immediate perimeter of a public safety facility should be controlled by having the fleet vehicles designated for parking within that perimeter. An ancillary benefit to this decision was that personnel of the Police Department could park in the underground parking and not on the street.

After many months of meetings with T.T. & P. personnel and with Neighborhood residents the final plan was to allot parking spaces along Bent Street and Sixth Street for fleet vehicles. The spaces along Bent Street had previously been metered and the ones along Sixth Street had been restricted prior to being re-posted. Furthermore, ten (10) parking spaces were rented from AT&T for fleet vehicles rather than taking additional parking in the area.

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Also, the Police Department has rented extra parking spaces for personal vehicles at a nearby private parking facility. The fee for parking spaces are deducted from employees salaries. Strict guidelines have been established whereby the parking protocol is adhered to in order to minimize the impact on the neighbors and businesses.

Prior to this City Council Order, the Police Department was already re-evaluating the parking in and around the Public Safety Facility. During the course of this past year, there had been a number of modifications to the parking arrangement in the immediate area to address issues that arose. Among the things being re-assessed was the day and evening parking configurations. In further consultation with the City Manager and Traffic, Transportation & Parking, we believe that we identified five parking spaces between Rogers Street and Binney Street, which could be modified so as to allow "Resident Parking" from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m., and thereby still reserve the spaces needed for police vehicles during the course of the day. In speaking with some of the residents, this would allow for residents to park across from the apartment building located in this block for the nighttime activities taking place in the building. As discussed, we are working with Traffic, Transportation & Parking to modify the signage for these parking spaces.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas", written in a cursive style.

Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

RCH/bk